

Cornwallis Headquarters
Palisade Interstate Park
Alpine, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Cornwallis Headquarters
Palisade Interstate Park
Alpine, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Interstate Park Commission

Date of Erection: About 1750

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - The first floor of the main house red sandstone; likewise the south end of the second floor; rest siding

Interior walls - stone section unplastered, the rest of the house plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, wood shingles

Historical Data:

Some accounts mention this building as a one story one room cottage, but according to present indications it seems always to have been two stories; the southern portion was added later. The place was according to all appearances always used as a tavern. Drinks were served there to the sloop captains who

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landed at the dock to trade goods with the farms in the region in back of the Palisades and with the Indians. On the ceiling beams of the old tavern can still be distinguished the tallies against Graves and Towers; one also reads "Captain Slar Dutcher 12 36¢", indicating apparently that the drinks were three cents a piece. These accounts are old because the ceiling had been lathed and plastered about 1800 and was only taken down when the building was restored by the Park Commission. It was then that these tallies were revealed.

On November 19, 1776 two battalions of Hessian Grenadiers, two companies of Yagers, and eight battalions of English Reserves, from four to five thousand men, crossed the Hudson and landed here with the intention of attacking General Greene. This expedition was under the command of Lord Cornwallis. The troops pulled their cannon up the trail back of the house to the top of the Palisades.

Originally, the tavern room had a dirt floor; in the process of restoration, the floor boards were removed and in digging soldiers' buttons, coins, articles, and the like were found. A cannon ball was also dug from the thick strong walls.

The first landlord of the tavern of which we have record was a lady whose name was Rachel Slot.

Bibliography:

Westervelt, F.A. (Editor) History of Bergen County, New Jersey 3 Vols., New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1923

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Field Book and Drawings of Survey

Information collected by Clarence H.
Tabor, Jr.



Supervising Historian

Approved:



SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
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Rev. Aug. 26. 36 T.T.W.